

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 5110

EO 11652GDS
TAGS: OEXC, SCUL
SUBJ: PROGRAM FOR POLISH JOURNALISTS AT NATO

REF: WARSAW 5036

1. SINCE THE CONVERSATION REPORTED IN REFTEL, WE HAVE HAD TWO ADDITIONAL EXCHANGES ON THIS SUBJECT WITH A COUNCILOR OF THE FRENCH EMBASSY.
2. ON THE BASIS OF HIS COMMENTS, WE THINK IT LIKELY THAT PRIMARY FRENCH CONCERN IS WITH WHAT THE JOURNALISTS MIGHT DO IN PARIS. WE EXPLAINED THAT THE VISIT TO PARIS WOULD NOT CONCERN NATO AND TOLD HIM THAT ROBERT LEVINE, PAO, USOECD, WHO WOULD ARRANGE THE PROGRAM IN PARIS, WOULD BE PLEASED TO DESCRIBE IT TO APPROPRIATE FRENCH OFFICIALS.
3. WE ALSO TOLD THE FRENCH COUNSELOR THAT ALTHOUGH WE HAD INFORMALLY DISCUSSED THE PROGRAM WITH POLISH JOURNALISTS, WE HAD NOT FORMALLY PROPOSED THE VISIT TO POLISH EDITORS OR OFFICIALS AND WOULD NOT DO SO UNTIL WE HAD THE AUTHORITY TO DO SO FROM USNATO OFFICIALS WHO, OF COURSE, WOULD CONTINUE TO DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH
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THEIR FRENCH COLLEAGUES UNTIL A DECISION WAS MADE.

4. ALTHOUGH THE FRENCH COUNSELOR WAS QUITE RELAXED AND SEEMED TO BE MOSTLY CONCERNED WITH WHAT THE JOURNALISTS MIGHT DO IN PARIS, HE DID DEXPRESS THE FEAR THAT THE POLES MIGHT CONSIDER THE INVITATION TO BE A "PROVOCATION." WE TOLD HIM THAT THE

JOURNALISTS WITH WHOM WE HAD DISCUSSED THE VISIT HAD
CERTAINLY NOT CONSIDERED IT TO BE. MOREOVER, WE
POINTED OUT THAT THE VISIT WOULD BE COMPLETELY
CONSISTENT WITH THE EXCHANGE OF OBSERVERS AT
MANEUVERS AND CONSTITUTE A CONFIDENCE BUILDING
MEASURE IN THE CSCE FRAMEWORK.
BROWN

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